

Unabridged
Dictionary

Main Entry

search

Site Menu

Merriam-Webster
Unabridged
® THE UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

✓ Browsing the web?

Bring the dictionary!Download IE Toolbar and
Firefox Search Tools todaySEARCH AGAIN AT
TOP OF PAGE

Bookmark entry

Print entry

E-mail entry

Browse dictionary

Get help



ADVANCED SEARCH

FIND THIS
WORD IN:

Collegiate

Thesaurus

Encyclopedia

Medical

Spanish-English

French-English

54 entries found.

arc[1,noun]
 arc[2,intransitive verb]
 arc
 ARC
 arc-back
 arc-boutant
 arc chute
 arc cosecant
 arc cosine
 arc cotangent
 arc de triomphe
 arc furnace
 arc lamp
 arc light
 arc of action
 arc of approach
 arc of contact
 arc of lowitz
 arc of meridian
 arc of recess

To select an entry, click on
 it. Click 'Go' if one entry is
 listed.

Go

Double-click any word in
 the entry to see its
 definition.

Main Entry: ¹**arc** [Pronunciation Guide](#)

Pronunciation: 'ärk, 'äk

Function: *noun*

Inflected Form(s): -s

Etymology: Middle English *ark*, from Middle French *arc*, from
 Latin *arcus* bow, arc -- more at [ARROW](#)

1 : the apparent path described above and below the horizon by
 the sun or other celestial body

2 : something that is arched or curved : an arched or curved
 shape or figure <with eyebrows raised in a quizzical *arc*> <he
 bent the twig into an *arc*>: as *a obsolete* : **ARCH** <triumphal
arcs -- John Milton> **b** : a geologic or topographic feature
 repeated along a curving line on the earth's surface <island *arcs*
 ... so well developed in the western Pacific -- F.P.Shepard>

<volcanic *arcs*> **c** (1) : a sustained brilliantly luminous glow
 sometimes having the appearance of a curved line of flame that
 is formed under certain conditions when a break is made in an
 electric circuit (2) : a spotlight or lamp that uses an electric arc
 as the light source **d** : one of the curved stripes that close the
 open angle at the bottom or top of certain chevrons on military
 uniforms **e** : the quarter circle enclosing the service box on a
 squash rackets court

3 : a continuous portion of a curved line or path (as part of a
 circle or an ellipse)

4 : angular measure -- used chiefly in the phrase *of arc* <11
 minutes 3 seconds of *arc*>

Citation format for this entry:

"arc." *Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged*.
 Merriam-Webster, 2002. <http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com>
 (23 Feb. 2007).

[Home](#)[My Account](#)[Contact Us](#)[Privacy Policy](#)
[Online](#)[Site Help](#)[Merriam-Webster](#)

© 2006-2007 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

Unabridged
Dictionary

Main Entry

search

Site Menu



Merriam-Webster
Unabridged
THE UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

✓ Browsing the web?
Bring the dictionary!
Download IE Toolbar and
Firefox Search Tools today

SEARCH AGAIN AT
TOP OF PAGE ▲

Bookmark entry

Print entry

E-mail entry

Browse dictionary

Get help



ADVANCED SEARCH

FIND THIS
WORD IN:

Collegiate

Thesaurus

Encyclopedia

Medical

Spanish-English

French-English

2 entries found.

vertex
vertex presentation

To select an entry, click on
it. Click 'Go' if one entry is
listed.

Go

Double-click any word in
the entry to see its
definition.

Main Entry: **ver·tex** [Pronunciation Guide](#)

Pronunciation: 'vər]_teks, 'vā], 'vəi]

Function: *noun*Inflected Form(s): *plural verti·ces* \]d.ə,sēz,]tə-; *also vertexes* \]_teksəz\Etymology: Latin *vertex*, *vortex* whirl, whirlpool, highest point, peak, from Latin *vertere* to turn -- more at [WORTH](#)

1 a (1) : the point opposite to and farthest from the base in a figure (2) : the termination or intersection of lines or curves <the *vertex* of an angle> (3) : a point where an axis of an ellipse, parabola, or hyperbola intersects the curve itself **b** : the point of intersection of an axially symmetrical optical surface with its axis of symmetry **c** (1) : **ZENITH** 1; *also* : the point on the limb of a celestial body nearest the zenith (2) : a point on the celestial sphere toward which star streaming is directed
2 : the top of the head: as **a** : the upper part of the head of an insect in front above the antennae and between the compound eyes **b** (1) : the highest point of the human skull when held in the eye-ear plane (2) : the highest median point of the head of the living human when in a natural position
3 : a principal or highest point : **SUMMIT**, **APEX** <a monument on the *vertex* of the hill commands a breathtaking view>; *often* : the high point of an arch : **CROWN**, **KEystone**

Citation format for this entry:

"vertex." *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*,
Unabridged. Merriam-Webster, 2002.

http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com (23 Feb. 2007).

[Home](#)[My Account](#)[Contact Us](#)[Privacy Policy](#)
[Online](#)[Site Help](#)[Merriam-Webster](#)

© 2006-2007 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated